

Application No. 09/977,880

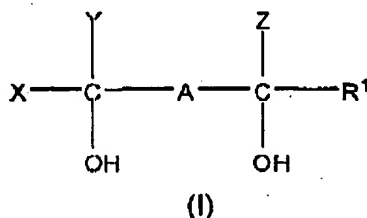
Attorney Docket No: 58172-8004
Client Docket No. P1999002US-101Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing reflects amendments to the claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

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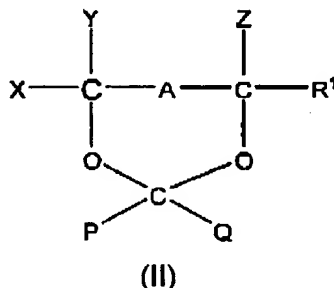
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1. (Currently Amended). A process for the preparation of a polymerisable polymerizable composition comprising ~~a cross-linker and a polymerisable~~ polymerizable monomer of formula I:



said process comprising the steps of:

(i) contacting a compound of formula II



with an ~~immobilised~~ immobilized acid to thereby form a composition comprising the monomer of formula (I) and an acid by-product thereof,

wherein

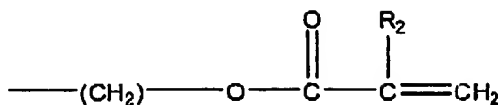
X, Y, Z, P, and Q are independently selected from a hydrocarbyl group or hydrogen,

A is (CH₂)_n, wherein n is 0 or 1; and

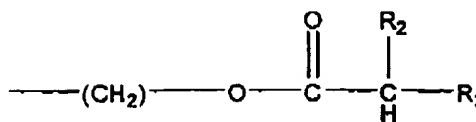
wherein:

~~R¹ is a group of the~~ corresponds to either formula IIIA or formula IIIB

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IIIA



IIIB

where R_2 R^2 is selected from the group consisting of H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, and butyl, ~~or and~~

R^1 is a group of formula IIIB



IIIB

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, and butyl, and R^3 is an unsaturated C_{2-5} alkyl; and

(ii) ~~neutralising~~ neutralizing the product composition of step (i), such that the cross-linker is formed to thereby provide a composition comprising the monomer of formula I and a cross-linker.

2. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 wherein the immobilized acid is a strong acid.

3. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 wherein the acid is ~~immobilised~~ immobilized on an ion exchange resin.

4. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 wherein X and Y are independently selected from hydrocarbon groups having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms and hydrogen.

5. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is a group of corresponds to formula IIIA, wherein and R^2 R_2 is CH_3 .

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6. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein X is H; Y is H, Z is H, and $n=0$, and R^1 is a group of corresponds to formula IIIA, and in which R^2 - R_2 is CH_3 .

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein prior to said said contacting, comprising the immobilized acid is contained, containing the immobilised acid, contacting the immobilised acid with the compound of formula II and after said contacting, passing a gas through the contained immobilised immobilized acid.

10. (Original) A process according to claim 9 wherein the gas is air.

11. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 9 wherein the immobilised-immobilized acid is contacted with the compound of formula II in the absence of an organic solvent.

12. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein said contacting step (i) is performed in the presence of water.

13. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 9, wherein containing the immobilised prior to said contacting, the immobilized acid is contained in acid comprises a fluidized bed reactor.

14. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 9, further comprising after said passing step, wherein the process comprises extracting the gas from the contained immobilised-immobilized acid after the gas has passed through the immobilised acid.

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15. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, ~~wherein the process further comprises the step comprising, after said neutralizing, of polymerizing the polymerisable composition formed in step (ii), to thereby form a polymer monomer of formula I, whereby a polymer is formed.~~

16. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, ~~wherein an acid is formed during the process and said acid by-product formed in step (i) is methacrylic acid.~~

17. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, ~~wherein an acid is formed during the process and said acid by-product formed in step (i) is acrylic acid.~~

18. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 15, further comprising forming the polymer formed in said polymerizing step into an ocular device from the polymer.

19. (Currently Amended) A ~~polymerisable~~ polymerizable monomer or composition ~~obtained in accordance with a process as defined~~ formed by the process of ~~in claim 1.~~

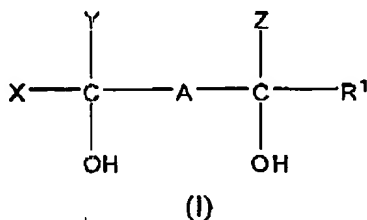
20. (Currently Amended) A polymer formed by the process of ~~obtained in accordance with a process as defined~~ in claim 15.

21. (Currently Amended) An ocular device comprising the polymer formed by the process of claim 15 ~~prepared in accordance with a process as defined in claim 18.~~

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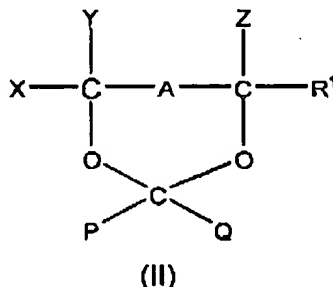
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22. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a polymerisable polymerizable composition comprising ~~a cross-linker and a polymerisable~~ polymerizable monomer of formula I;



said process comprising the steps of:

(i) contacting a compound of formula II



with an immobilized acid, having a pK_a of less than 3, to thereby form a composition comprising the monomer of formula (I) and an acid by-product thereof,

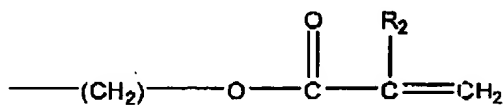
wherein

X and Y are independently selected from hydrocarbon groups having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and hydrogen,

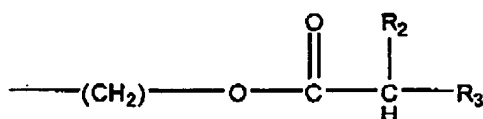
Z, P, and Q are independently selected from a hydrocarbyl group or hydrogen, ~~and wherein A is $(\text{CH}_2)_n$, wherein n is 0 or 1; and~~

wherein:

~~R¹ is a group of the~~ corresponds to either formula IIIA or formula IIIB



IIIA



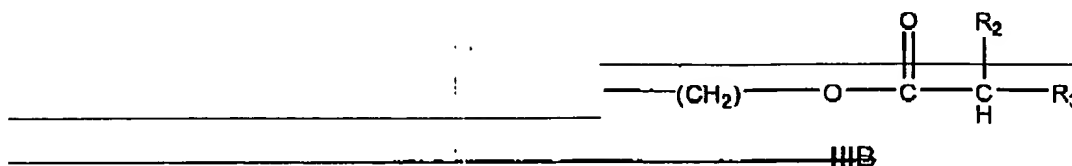
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~~wherein where~~ R₂-R² is selected from the group consisting of H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, and butyl, or and

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~~R¹ is a group of formula IIIB~~



~~R² is selected from the group consisting of H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, and butyl, and~~

~~R³-R₃ is an unsaturated C₂₋₅ alkyl; and~~

~~(ii) neutralizing neutralizing the product composition of step (i), such that the cross-linker is formed to thereby provide a composition comprising the monomer of formula I and a cross-linker.~~

23. (New) The process of claim 1, effective to form a composition comprising said monomer of formula (I) and about 0.50 percent or less of said cross-linker.

24. (New) The process of claim 9, wherein said contacting results in formation of P-C(O)-Q, and said passing step is effective to remove said P-C(O)-Q from said composition.

25. (New) The process of claim 24, wherein said process is effective to provide essentially quantitative conversion of the compound of formula (II) to the monomer of formula (I).

26. (New) The process of claim 15, wherein the resulting polymer comprises 5% or less of a polymer formed by polymerization of said cross-linker.

27. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein said neutralizing comprises contacting the composition of step (i) with immobilized alkali.

28. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein said Immobilized alkali is immobilized hydroxide.

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29. (New) The process of claim 3, wherein prior to said neutralizing, said immobilized acid is removed by filtration.

30. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein the polymerizable monomer of formula (I) is glycerine methacrylate (GMA), the compound of formula (II) is 2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl methyl methacrylate (GMAK), the acid by-product is methacrylic acid (MA), and the cross-linker is glycerol dimethacrylate.